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General Assembly

Official Records

Fifty-first Session

47th plenary meeting
Thursday, 31 October 1996, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Razali Ismail . . . . . (Malaysia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 15 *(continued)*

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: This morning, the General Assembly will proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1996.

The 18 outgoing members are: Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

I should like to remind members of the Assembly that, as of 1 January 1997, the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, the Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Finland, Gabon, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The names of these 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States which will remain members of the Council after 1 January 1997, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, three from Asian States, one from Eastern European States, four from Latin American and Caribbean States, and five from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the number of candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to this procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed that for the five vacancies from among the African States, the candidates endorsed by the Group of African States are Cape Verde, Djibouti, the Gambia, Mozambique and Zambia.

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There are six candidates for the three vacancies from among the Asian States, namely Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam.

There are two candidates for one vacancy from among the Eastern European States. The candidates are Bulgaria and Latvia.

There are five candidates for four vacancies from among the Latin American and Caribbean States. The five candidates are Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico and Venezuela.

The Group of Western European and other States has endorsed five candidates for five vacancies. The candidates are France, Germany, Iceland, Spain and Turkey.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper which do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Amirbekov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Brauwers (Belgium), Mr. Jeluddin (Brunei Darussalam), Mr. Soulama (Burkina Faso), and Mr. Estévez (Guatemala) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.30 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States

Number of ballot papers:	181
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	181
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	181
Required two-thirds majority:	121
Number of votes obtained:	
Mozambique	178
Gambia	173
Zambia	172
Djibouti	171
Cape Verde	167
Algeria	8
Kenya	6
Ghana	5
Ethiopia	3
Morocco	3
Namibia	1
Zimbabwe	1

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	181
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	181
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	181
Required two-thirds majority:	121
Number of votes obtained:	
Japan	127
Republic of Korea	118
Sri Lanka	90
Viet Nam	84
Indonesia	76
Syrian Arab Republic	30
Papua New Guinea	5
Pakistan	3
Cambodia	1

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	181
Number of invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	179
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	177
Required two-thirds majority:	118
Number of votes obtained:	
Latvia	116
Bulgaria	61

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	181
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	181
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting.	181

Required two-thirds majority:	121
Number of votes obtained:	
Chile	156
Cuba	147
Mexico	146
El Salvador	133
Venezuela	120
Guatemala	3
Costa Rica	1
Ecuador	1
Panama	1
Peru	1

Group E — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	181
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	181
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	179
Required two-thirds majority:	120
Number of votes obtained:	
Germany	176
France	174
Iceland	168
Turkey	167
Spain	166
Ireland	7
Greece	5
Portugal	5
Italy	2
Austria	1
Belgium	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Cape Verde, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, El Salvador, France, Gambia, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Mozambique, Spain, Turkey and Zambia were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997.

The President: I congratulate those States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

There remain three seats to be filled — two from among the Asian States and one from among the Eastern European States.

We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot.

The second round of balloting shall be restricted to the four States from among the Asian States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam; and to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, Bulgaria and Latvia.

This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers marked "B" and "C" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on those ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "B", for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka or Viet Nam, as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

Ballot papers marked "C", for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Bulgaria or Latvia, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Amirbekov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Brauwers (Belgium), Mr. Jeluddin (Brunei Darussalam), Mr. Soulama (Burkina Faso) and Mr. Estévez (Guatemala) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.25 p.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	181
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	181
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	181
Required two-thirds majority:	121

Number of votes obtained:	
Republic of Korea	128
Sri Lanka	91
Viet Nam	78
Indonesia	61

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	181
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	181
Abstentions:	1
Number of Members voting:	180
Required two-thirds majority:	120
Number of votes obtained:	
Latvia	138
Bulgaria	42

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Latvia and the Republic of Korea were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997.

The President: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

There remains one seat to be filled from among the Asian States.

We shall therefore proceed to the second restricted ballot.

The third round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Asian States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on those ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "B", for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Sri Lanka or Viet Nam as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Amirbekov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Brauwers (Belgium), Mr. Jeluddin (Brunei Darussalam), Mr. Soulama (Burkina Faso) and Mr. Estévez (Guatemala) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot

Mr. Minoves-Triquell (Andorra), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was suspended at 1.10 p.m. and resumed at 1.30 p.m.

The Acting President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B - Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	174
Number of invalid ballots:	3
Number of valid ballots:	171
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	168
Required two-thirds majority:	112
Number of votes obtained:	
Sri Lanka	105
Viet Nam	63

The Acting President: Since no candidates obtained the required two-thirds majority in the previous ballot, there remains one seat to be filled from among the Asian States.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, we should continue with the series of restricted ballots. However, in view of the late hour, I propose that we postpone further balloting until 3 p.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.